

## AN ENTHUSIASTIC MEETING

At Old Market Hall Regarding the  
Strikers.

## MANY INTERESTING ADDRESSES MADE.

Magnificent Gathering of a Large Body of  
Men--Mr. Wisdom the Principal  
Speaker.

Such a splendid assemblage, seen in Richmond, as that which gathered last evening in Old Market Hall to discuss the strike at the Rail and Locomotive and Machine Works.

Long before 8 o'clock every seat in the hall was full, and when the meeting was called to order there was hardly standing room.

Fascinating men--hard-working, honest and courageous-looking men--were packed into the hall, and a striking feature of the assembly was the quiet and orderly demeanor of all, the enthusiasm can high.

The meeting was called to order by the chairman, Mr. P. Murphy, and after a few appropriate remarks, in which he expressed regret that the strike had been necessary, and that the management of the works here would return the men to their places from whence he came, but that if we had him in (in my State), the trouble would be settled.

"I would consider it an insult to compare you or this beautiful city to some of the places or places in my own State."

Capitalism controls everything, including legislatures, and we can only protect ourselves by the system this man is trying to break down.

"He knows the power of organization, and it is his delight to fight it."

"Any man who attempts to destroy labor unity is no friend to either capital or labor, and is a traitor to all that is just and right."

"What did our forefathers fight for? Was liberty gained only for the capitalists?"

The Declaration of Independence does not state,

"It would appear from the way things are driving that the wealth of this vast continent is for the capitalists."

The fault rests with us, for we have been indolent, and because capital has a few more dollars we have bowed down to it and allowed it to even take our brains."

"On account of the power of the combination of capital we must also organize and endeavor to possess a full knowledge of our own power."

CONVENTION IN RICHMOND.

"The condition of things now existing in Richmond will drive work away and destroy their prospects and prosperity."

Contractors will look to some other place, and for that reason your future prosperity depends greatly upon the way in which this question is handled."

"We must have fairness and be treated like men and citizens, and not as dogs."

"If there is a dispute we must hear, and no intelligent person would refuse it. I can see why a manager should not discuss with an employee."

"Can it be because he is too high or lofty?"

On some subjects he is only too willing to confer."

"Some people think we have no just complaint. Most of these individuals are imported goods."

"We don't object to these people coming here, but they should have their due recognition, but when they do come to control they should control with justice."

The speaker then referred very complimentarily to several large Northern concerns where the rights of the men were considered, and their unions upheld.

He spoke in very high terms of the stockholders of the works, and said that he had seen them to be honest and upright men, but he believed that he was then looking into the faces of honest men who deservedly what was right. [Applause.]

It occurred to him, he said, that their difference ought to be one of advancement, and he thought that if the two sides could come together and confer in a reasonable way, some arrangement could easily be made.

He declared that he believed he had good reason for feeling proud of the mechanics of this town, for the manner in which they had conducted themselves for the past three weeks.

He said, "I know you and I believe you are as law abiding and as honest in your convictions as any citizen within the bounds of this city, and I am glad of this opportunity to thank you for the dignity and courtesy which has marked your conduct."

Please note that I shall do all within my power to bring about a speedy settlement of the trouble.

I've satisfied that you men will put no obstacle in the way of an early adjustment of the difficulties which now exist, and while upholding your own rights I feel confident that you will recognize the rights of others."

When the Mayor had concluded the applause which greeted him was deferring.

MR. WISDOM.

The chairman then introduced the creator of the evening, Mr. Thomas Wisdom, vice-president of the Iron Moulder's Union of North America.

In beginning his address he stated that he felt a certain amount of pride in meeting such a distinguished audience, but that he was sorry to find them under the existing circumstances.

He sketched Richmond's former history to the calm and quiet flowing of a great and mighty river as it peacefully finds its way to the sea, but said that now those waters had been troubled, and a serious change had taken place.

What has caused this change?" he said, "is not something transparent to cause you to resent?"

"Things have been introduced which are calculated to destroy your rights, and you are compelled to strike to uphold yourselves."

"As to the cause, we find that after serving our apprenticeship and making heavy sacrifices to avoid strikes, and to obtain the most favorable of labor conditions, endeavours are made to invade our just and honest rights."

The Richmond Locomotive and Machine Works have been in existence for a long time, and in the past no fault has ever been found with the old management or with the men who have their money invested.

They have gained a reputation for producing work which is the very best, and of which the whole city should be proud; but what has developed this mighty enterprise, or what has given such steady growth to this concern if not the peaceful and harmonious conduct and the high grade of skill of the mechanics employed?

MYERS' THEATRE.

Contractors have looked the world over for a best place to send their orders, and in Richmond they thought that they had found a safe free from all strife where harmony and peace held sway, and trouble between management and men which would delay their work was unknown. But it seems that is not so.

It is evident, however, that you have no more Metamorphosis here, and you have shown your intelligence to the country at large by your conduct.

He said that for the sake of larger gains capital was now trying to use labor, which effected their rights. He spoke of the names in which boys are now taught, their trades in many shows that is, that they were only allowed to learn certain parts instead of giving all-around instruction.

He said that the more expert they became, and the more information and education pertaining to their trades which they received, the more would it add to their dignity, and that capital knew it and were afraid of it.

"We find," he said, "that capital to-day is trying to undermine that intelligence but I claim that it should be the sacred duty of every foreman to fulfil his duty to the apprentices by teaching him all parts of the trade and make him a true mechanician."

CARABINER OF PHILADELPHIA.

To gain the comitiat cuts off all opportunity from the day, and if that is allowed to continue only creatures of their will will be ruled by brute force."

This is why we are compelled to resort to organization.

Capital is organized, and well do they know the power of organization and they should grant to us the same privilege and the same liberty to organize and protect our apprentices as our hands and our heads.

Our organizations are for the purpose of protecting our capital. Nothing more.

The employers appeal to our lower nature, baseness, and they try to divide us by offering separate inducements, and give one man more than another. We must combine.

The cause of the strike, as stated by the management of the works, is that they have a right to run their shops to suit themselves.

And so they have so long as they can do their affairs in accordance with justice. The owners of wealth have rights as well as the apprentices.

There is no value until labor brings it out and transforms it into wealth.

Labor, which is creating wealth, should have consideration as well as capital, which destroys the other--with all. When wealth increases and begins to centralize it comes into the hands of a few. We must combine.

It is often the case that owners and directors of institutions are honest and just, but are deceived by the management, but they should be informed and not allow one servant to oppress the many. They should not be the word of one employee above the other.

TO REASON WITH THEM.

"We want to meet the stockholders and reason with them."

If we meet and both parties are confident of their right, then the matter should be left to disinterested parties, and both should abide by their decision. [Applause.]

The management is not willing to do this. They claim that they have nothing about which to confer.

We have no right to be heard before a fair and impartial tribunal.

We are conceding much when we put up limited knowledge against the learning of capital, but we are willing to confer.

It is a pity that reason is to be put aside

by the very ones who claim to possess reason. We have arrived at a time when brute force can be used.

"We are not in despotic Russia, and should have been granted an interview. There was no trouble here until an individual came who was accustomed to working Poles, Scandinavians and the slum of the earth, and he wants to control honest citizens as he would them."

"Yes, honest citizens men who have their homes and who have lived here all their lives, as did their parents before them, and they are proud of their beautiful city. There is certainly no fear of brute force from people of this description. They love this place, and they want to stay here and enjoy the land of their birth."

BEST OF HIS FRIENDS.

"And yet are they to be forced by a man who does not value Richmond more than the dust of his feet?"

"If the management of the works here would return the men to their places from whence he came, but that I want him to stay (in my State), the trouble would be settled."

"I would consider it an insult to compare you or this beautiful city to some of the places or places in my own State."

Capitalism controls everything, including legislatures, and we can only protect ourselves by the system this man is trying to break down.

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"What did our forefathers fight for? Was liberty gained only for the capitalists?"

The presents received were useful and ornamental.

Mr. and Mrs. David E. Fleming, of Fredericksburg, sent a silver berry ladle.

Mr. Charles Haase, Jr., and Mr. David R. Towles, also of Fredericksburg, were the booby prize.

The bride was in a pretty traveling suit of steel gray, and carried a bunch of Mareschal roses.

The bride is well known to a large number of people in Richmond, and is popular, accomplished, and handsome.

The groom is a well-known young man, having a host of friends and acquaintances, among whom he is quite popular.

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Mr. and Mrs. Frank McCarthy, Vivian French and the soloists, E. Willard Sweeney, Lottie S. Jones, J. W. Tribble and Hatchie Bagley.

A special mention is due to Messrs. J. W. Tribble, Lottie S. Jones and E. Willard Sweeney. The last named came for a large share of applause when singing "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

The afternoon there will be no matinee, but the evening the May Queen, as given last week, will be represented.

The Queen will be represented by Little Nannie Langford.

There will be mads of honor, pages and princesses and flower children.

After the presentation of gifts the Queen's guard will appear and give an exhibition drill.

The performance will close with the Maypole dance by Miss Mary Thaw's pupils, and a solo by Miss Mary Preston Moore.

The apron sale which took place yesterday afternoon was quite a success, and a goodly number of aprons were sold. The ladies of the Methodist church did a good business in selling high tea, but the blackbird pie did not get many takers.

The pie will be sold at 5 o'clock this afternoon in the little canteen.

Dr. J. H. Moore gave an elegant dinner yesterday to about fifteen young dentists who graduated the previous day.

The bride was Miss Lilian F. Robertson, the only daughter of the late William H. Robertson, of Farmville, Va., and the groom is Mr. Samuel N. Chamberlain, of Warrenton, Va.

The ceremony was performed by the uncle of the bride, Rev. Walter H. Robertson, of Warrenton, assisted by Rev. R. P. Kerr, of the First Presbyterian church.

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